

City of Menasha

Public Works Facility

Date: January 26, 2010

To: Mark Radtke, Director of Public Works
Common Council

From: Jeff Nieland, Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Re: Automated Single Stream Recycling Collection

The purpose of this report is to update you on how the new recycling collection in the City of Menasha has progressed since our first automated collection began the first week in January.

- Residents were introduced to single stream recycling in the Fall 2009 newsletter.
- New brown 96-gallon recycling carts were delivered to residents in December with the annual collection information packets.
- Single Stream automated collection started with the first collection in January 2010.

The major change for our residents to understand is that with the automated collection and sorting change the use of plastic bags in the recycling stream will no longer be allowed. Information on this change has been included in correspondence during the last 6 months of 2009, on our website, annual handout, and newsletter. During the January collection violations (using plastic bags or incorrect cart) by our residents was quite limited. As a courtesy we did empty the recycling cart, tagged the cart with information, noted the address, and sent recycling information in a letter to each addressing the changes.

- Recycling routes average 700 stops per day. We serviced 6363 carts during the 2 week collection period.
- There were 258 violations of having plastic bags in the recycling cart during the January collection periods.
- Our goal is to cut the use of plastic bag violations in half or more during the February collection cycles.
- We had only 2 residents using the incorrect cart.

Having residents recycle more material was a goal that has been achieved during the first collection.

- Over the last 5 years an average of 96.5 tons of recycling was collected curbside in January.
- January 2009 curbside collection material weight was 86.0 tons.
- 99.1 tons of single stream recycling material was collected during the first collection in January 2010, a 15% increase from last January!
- The average pounds of recycling per household went from 24.6 to 28.2 pounds, an increase of 3.6 pounds per household in recyclable material from previous years!

The first collection process with the demo truck did come with some problems that were addressed with the manufacturer during the collection period.

- Slow operation of the tipping mechanism.
- Recyclable material not transferring from the collection container into the truck hopper properly.
- Material falling from truck hopper to the roadway.

Working with the manufacturer to resolve the problems has helped ensure our modified truck will not have similar issues.

The 96-gallon cart is functioning like we anticipated; the volume of the cart seems to be adequate for most households. Residents who have contacted our office regarding cart size being too small have been asked to use our recycling facility, put out an additional container, and to re-visit how they are utilizing the cart volume. A few calls were received regarding the cart being too large for the volume of recycling generated and for storage.

- Each route did have a small number of stops with additional containers of recycling out for collection.
- Additional volume of recyclable material may be experienced with the first collection due to the holiday period.
- No significant volume change has been noticed in our recycling center usage.
- Twice monthly collection is a goal we would like to achieve if it can be done without adding equipment or manpower.